



The STEWARD

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
www.ncsparks.net for state parks info and events

Michael F. Easley
 Governor

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William G. Ross Jr.
 Secretary, DENR

FACILITY DEDICATED AT HAMMOCKS

Hammocks Beach State Park formally dedicated a 4,582-square-foot bathhouse and picnic complex on Bear Island April 22. It replaces a decades-old structure that fell victim to successive hurricanes in the 1990s.

The Bear Island facility is a series of wooden structures and gazebos connected by more than 600 feet of boardwalk and beach access ramps set behind the dune line near the center of the three-mile-long barrier island.

The \$1.54 million project is the result of six years of planning, design and construction.

Park Superintendent Paul Donnelly told about 40 people who attended the ceremony, "Good things come to those who wait, and as far as I can see, this has been definitely worth waiting for."

The fully-accessible beach complex includes a 2,913-square-foot pavilion with observation decks, concession area and environmental education classroom, as well as a 1,669-square-foot restroom and shower area. There are also four covered picnic shel-



AERIAL VIEW SHOWS PAVILION/CLASSROOM BUILDING AT LEFT AND TOILET/SHOWER FACILITY IN CENTER FLANKED BY PICNIC SHELTERS.

ters, a covered overlook shelter and a sand rinse station.

The designer of the project was Burnette Architecture and Planning of Pine Knoll Shores, and the general contractor was Rose-Markham Inc. of Kinston.

The project was funded by the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund after replacement funds for the dilapidated bathhouse had been shifted during the state budget crisis. During early efforts to

replace the facility, Hurricane Fran heavily damaged the offices of the architect's office near Swansboro. Problems with getting construction materials onto the island further delayed the project.

The principal structures of the complex are built around massive redwood beams sunk deep into the island and joined with stainless steel hardware. The new site, well behind the dune line, further protects it from storms.

"This one won't blow away and it won't float away," said Bruce

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources

UP CLOSE AND 'PERSONNEL'

Dwayne Parker was promoted to a Maintenance Mechanic V with the north district. Dwayne has a bachelor's degree in natural biology from Lees McRae College and has worked with the division as a maintenance mechanic for four years.

Jo Ann Shandy joined the budget office as the division's Administrative Officer I. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration/business management from Mount Olive College. She had previously worked with the Neuse

Correctional Institution for five years. Other employment included working as a loan administration clerk for ten years.

Samuel Jordan was promoted to a Maintenance Mechanic I. Samuel has more than 23 years of experience in construction as a foreman.

Glen George joined Crowders Mountain State Park as a Park Ranger I. He has a bachelor's degree in forest management/business from Clemson University and a master's degree in teaching from Converse College. Glen

brings more than three years experience as a park attendant in Georgia.

Brandy Belville is a new Park Ranger I at Morrow Mountain State Park. She has a bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Georgia and more than three years of job-related experience.

Mary Berrier was hired at Gorges State Park as a Park Ranger I. She has a master's degree in parks, recreation and tourism management from North Carolina State University. Mary brings with her two years of teaching experience.

Brian Hartley joined Hammocks Beach State Park as a Maintenance Mechanic II. He brings more than 15 years of directly-related work experience.

James Arens was hired at Crowder's Mountain State Park as a Maintenance Mechanic II. He brings with him more than 21 years of maintenance experience.

Scott Thomas is the new publications coordinator and internet specialist with the public information office. He has a bachelor's degree in communication studies/graphic design from California State University, Chico. Scott brings with him more than 15 years experience as a creative director, graphic designer and advertising manager.

Stephen Brush joined Jordan Lake State Recreation Area as a Park Ranger II. He attended James Madison University, earning a bachelor's degree in recreation studies. Stephen completed an internship with the Colorado State Parks as a seasonal ranger.

From The Director's Desk

My personal thanks go to the Chatham County Safe Kids program, the NC Department of Insurance, Commissioner Jim Long and other groups for staging the "Splash Into Safety" event at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area this month (story on page 5). The event – with its bilingual emphasis – was a great effort at educating our visitors about staying safe around the water.

The division is contributing to this effort with life jacket stations and new bilingual signs at swimming areas, lessons for rangers in "survival Spanish" and bilingual safety information on our website. We continue to look for ways to address the needs of growing visitation from the Hispanic community.

Our visitors and staff have different types of things they must remember to bring to our state parks every day. But hopefully, on the list of both groups is a sense of safety. There's a renewed emphasis on safety within the department, and in our division. The division and park safety coordinators are spreading the message about this systematic approach to keeping our people out of harm's way. Taking that message to heart will likely make for a better day in the park, both for ourselves and our visitors.

It's sure to be a busy season. Let's do all we can to make it a safe one; it's everyone's responsibility!

Sincerely,



Lewis Ledford

SINGLETARY WELCOMES 'CCC BOY'

More than 60 years after the Civilian Conservation Corps broke camp and went home, there's a new "CCC boy" at Singletary Lake State Park.

A life-size, bronze statue of a CCC enrollee was unveiled April 24 by a group of CCC alumni who have been holding reunions for 17 years at the park's group camp which they had a hand in building as members of Elizabethtown Company #4482.

The statue is the 21st such tribute placed at former CCC camps in as many states, and it recognizes the contributions that the "CCC boys" made to the nation, the State of North Carolina and its parks. The alumni statue committee and park staff, lead by Superintendent Angelia Allcox, organized volunteers for the installation.

"It was a remarkable accomplishment that so many people were mobilized in the CCC all across the country," Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Bill Ross told the crowd of nearly 100 visitors.

With a "bias for action," Congress gave approval to President Roosevelt's New Deal program in four days, Ross said. "And, the good works that the CCC did live on and benefit people today."

The plan to recruit thousands of unemployed young men and disperse them in a peacetime conservation army was considered a resounding success, even by some of Roosevelt's critics. The 3.5 million men who enlisted from 1933-42 built countless public buildings, dams and bridges, planted an estimated three billion trees, created thousands of erosion-control projects and spent more than four million man-days fighting forest fires.

In North Carolina, CCC camps were built at or near the sites of what would become Hanging Rock, Morrow Mountain, Mount Mitchell and William B. Umstead state parks as well as Singletary Lake. The group camps, recreational ponds, trails and administrative buildings built by CCC enrollees became the core components of North Carolina's fledgling state parks system.

Singletary Lake and William B. Umstead state parks both were begun as recreational demonstration projects in 1936 by the National Park Service, the goal being to buy sub-marginal farmland and convert it to better use.

Another New Deal program, the Resettlement Administration, bought land for the



CCC ALUMNI COMMITTEE UNVEILS LIFE-SIZE STATUE OF CCC WORKER, ONE OF 21 INSTALLED IN THE NATION.

Singletary Lake project at an average price of \$4.51 per acre and managed it from 1936-39. The CCC camp, Elizabethtown Company #4482, was located at nearby White Lake, and Singletary Lake benefited by construction of a recreation center including 10 cabins, a dining hall, a recreation hall, workshop and an infirmary, giving the area a fully operational group camp. The park is still set aside for group camp functions and gatherings.

Ross noted that his father, George Ross, made a speech to park rangers at Singletary Lake 50 years ago to the day in his role as secretary of the NC Department of Conservation and Development, a precursor of DENR.

"Although I don't have a gray-and-green uniform, I'm proud to be affiliated with the gray and green," he said.

Another attendee with special ties was Tom Ellis, the former director of the NC Division of Parks and Recreation. Ellis is an alumnus of the Elizabethtown Company and returned to Singletary Lake as superintendent to begin his career with state parks. Ellis served on the statue committee along with Cameron Mercer, Walden Hearn and H.J. Alford.

The alumni raised \$20,000 for the statue and installation, which includes a paved, accessible walkway, circular brick enclosure, statue base and benches. It was completed with the help of local volunteers, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and alumni friends and family members.



'BEFORE,' LEFT, AND 'AFTER' PHOTOS SHOW THE EFFORTS OF PETTIGREW STATE PARK STAFF AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS WHO RECLAIMED STATE PARK LAND BY RECYCLING MATERIALS IN AN OLD REFUSE DUMP.

PETTIGREW VOLUNTEERS RECYCLE DUMP

By SID SHEARIN, Superintendent
Pettigrew State Park

During the 1990s, a beautiful tract of hardwood forest called the Brumsey Woods was added to Pettigrew State Park. But as in the case of many large tracts of land, people would dispose of their garbage by hauling it to the woods of absentee owners.

Brumsey Woods had a huge dump where local people had been hauling garbage for many years. Rather than removing the dump to a landfill more than 50 miles away, the park staff decided to recycle it.

Larry Weaver, who lives near the park,

regularly hauled all types of metal to Norfolk, Va. to be recycled. Since he only receives about \$22 per ton for steel and tin, he needed to take more than two tons of metal per trip.

Other types of metal bring higher prices, but still Weaver did not make much money. It was more like a hobby and a service to the community.

In the spring of 2002, with the Tyrrell County Youth Corps supplying labor, Weaver began recycling metal from the dump a few days a month. Beginning last summer, the park relied on student volunteers from Creswell and Columbia high schools who helped on Saturdays during the school year.

The project proceeded slowly because extreme wet weather prevented the volunteers from reaching the dump. In the meantime, Pettigrew acquired more property that had more debris.

Then in 2003, Hurricane Isabel struck and caused more delay. Finally in March of 2004 the dump removal was completed.

Approximately 42,160 pounds of steel and tin, 2,600 pounds of aluminum, 70 pounds of unclean copper wire, 285 pounds of copper and brass, and 46 batteries were hauled to Norfolk to be recycled.

Additionally, more than 3,680 pounds of tires were hauled to the local landfill to be recycled. The total in debris that was recycled was more than 24 tons. Unfortunately the park had to haul many tons of non-recyclable debris to the landfill as well.

Still there is more space in the landfill thanks to the community effort at Pettigrew.



TRUMPETER SWANS BANDED

PETTIGREW STATE PARK RANGER JOY GREENWOOD HOLDS A TRUMPETER SWAN, ONE OF A GROUP BANDED RECENTLY AT POCOSIN LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. IT'S THE FIRST BANDING OF THAT SPECIES IN NORTH CAROLINA, WHERE MIGRATING TUNDRA SWANS ARE COMMON, AND IT INDICATES THE SWANS LIKELY VISIT THE PARK'S LAKE PHELPS AS WELL.

KIDS 'SPLASH INTO SAFETY' AT JORDAN

With the summer swimming season fast approaching, safety around the water becomes an overriding concern at state parks and recreation areas.

Each year in North Carolina, an average of 38 children die in water-related incidents, according to the state's Department of Health and Human Services. So, May Day was an opportune time to schedule "Splash Into Safety," a children's water safety fair held at the Seaforth site of Jordan Lake State Recreation Area.

The event also served to kick off the 2004 National Safe Kids Week.

"Splash Into Safety" was a children's water safety fair with an added emphasis on multicultural outreach, since a growing percentage of visitors at parks on Jordan, Falls and Kerr lakes are Hispanic. The host and sponsors for the event provided bilingual volunteers at many of the informational booths.

Despite rainy weather, about 500 visitors



ABOVE AND BELOW, INFORMATION BOOTHS AND EXHIBITS EMPHASIZED WATER SAFETY FOR CHILDREN.



US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS RANGERS CREATED GAMES FOR KIDS CENTERED ON WATER SAFETY SKILLS.

enjoyed a day of fun and education geared to teaching kids and adults about recreational water safety through colorful, interactive displays, activities and games. In addition, free food, drinks and music were provided.

The Chatham County Safe Kids program hosted the event. The mission of Safe Kids is to protect children from their number one killer – unintentional injuries.

Sponsors and participants included the state parks system, area rescue agencies, the Jordan Lake Safety Council, the Jordan Lake office of the US Army Corps of Engineers and the NC Department of Insurance.

During a short program, State Insurance Commissioner and Chairman of NC Safe Kids Jim Long presented 24 donated personal flotation devices (PDFs) to Park Superintendent Billy Totten.

Two years ago, the state parks system began a PDF loaner program at the three reservoirs and built racks to keep PDFs handy at day-use area swimming beaches. In 2003, bilingual warning signs were erected at the popular beaches.

State park rangers take classes to learn simple Spanish phrases that can be used in emergency situations. And, the division's website is posting water safety information in Spanish.

"Safe Kids is dedicated to the prevention of unintentional injuries. The program covers many areas of concern, but today, with this year's theme of "Splash Into Safety", we are very happy to be here at Jordan Lake and focusing on the issues of water safety," said Chrissy Pearson, director of Public Information with the Department of Insurance.



LAKE NORMAN HONORS HALL

Aquatic biologist James Hall of Duke Power Company is presented with the State Parks Award for significant contributions to Lake Norman State Park by Superintendent Casey Rhinehart. Since 1993, Hall has worked tirelessly to present public environmental education programs and interpretive training for division staff on aquatic organisms. He regularly collected, transported and maintained macroinvertebrates and necessary scientific equipment for the programs. Hall also assisted his son Jeremy with an Eagle Scout project to design and construct an outdoor amphitheater for education programs. Hall has also presented numerous programs at Hanging Rock State Park over the past 10 years.

HAMMOCKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Garner, facilities director for the division.

Adrian O'Neal, the east district superintendent, said, "Everybody in North Carolina is responsible for this. They had a desire to have this facility here."

O'Neal said that the division's next goal for the state park is to tackle long-term transportation issues. Since the 1990s, sand has been steadily migrating into Cow Channel, the principal route used by division ferries to the island. During low tide, those ferries have not been able to navigate the channel.

As a short-term solution, the park recently put two shallow-draft ferries into service, each with an 11-passenger capacity.

Friends of Hammocks Beach and Bear Island recently donated \$7,500 to outfit an environmental education classroom at the beach complex including computer software, a laptop computer

KIDS PRODUCE GUIDE TO CAROLINA BEACH

By JOE SHIMEL, Ranger
Carolina Beach State Park

When kids camp at Carolina Beach State Park, they now have a park newspaper just for them.

Mrs. Angela Shimel's fourth grade class at Snipe's Elementary School launched a kid's newspaper as a class project. Entitled "For Kids, By Kids" it is a children's guide to Carolina Beach State Park.

It started with a field trip to Carolina Beach State Park. During their trip, the fourth graders learned all about the park. Then the class took the information back to the classroom, and each student was selected to do their own part of the newspaper.

The publication includes several activities and articles on park rangers, Superintendent Terri Taylor, carnivorous plants, and other park-related topics. While students were working on their articles, I visited them in the classroom to help refine and edit their articles. Soon after came the finished product, ready for the printer.

I appreciate the work they have done, and am sure that our young campers this summer will also appreciate their efforts.

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FACILITIES DIRECTOR BRUCE GARNER AND HAMMOCKS BEACH RANGER SAM BLAND CUT THE RIBBON.

and photographic equipment. David Pearson, president of the group, said its next objective is to seek more land for the park's mainland section.

North Carolina State Parks

Monthly Attendance Report

2004

PARK	MARCH 2004	TOTAL YTD MAR. 2004	MARCH 2003	TOTAL YTD MAR. 2003	% CHANGE (2003/2004)	
					MAR.	YTD
Carolina Beach	15,561	34,422	17,652	40,022	-12%	-14%
Cliffs of the Neuse	7,473	17,320	6,720	14,649	11%	18%
Crowder's Mountain	33,319	75,746	18,606	45,743	79%	66%
Eno River	24,724	61,089	23,058	47,383	7%	29%
Occoneetchee Mountain	3,616	7,994	511	511	608%	1464%
Falls Lake	34,991	61,742	45,500	67,589	-23%	-9%
Fort Fisher	48,974	112,184	51,329	106,350	-5%	5%
Fort Macon	75,342	163,076	73,144	150,856	3%	8%
Goose Creek	13,515	32,533	10,734	27,161	26%	20%
Gorges	10,317	17,377	4,241	11,136	143%	56%
Hammocks Beach	9,666	20,718	8,082	24,756	20%	-16%
Hanging Rock	22,406	41,827	22,416	40,516	0%	3%
Jockey's Ridge	40,948	76,370	52,986	157,669	-23%	-52%
Jones Lake	8,410	17,082	7,412	16,772	13%	2%
Jordan Lake	28,139	51,387	14,811	33,845	90%	52%
Kerr Lake	105,116	175,584	56,136	132,560	87%	32%
Lake James	17,623	31,602	9,762	23,374	81%	35%
Lake Norman	38,772	85,263	29,412	41,338	32%	106%
Lake Waccamaw	6,032	12,180	9,312	18,696	-35%	-35%
Lumber River	3,970	12,075	2,395	7,445	66%	62%
Medoc Mountain	3,184	8,259	3,864	3,864	-18%	114%
Merchant's Millpond	15,660	27,939	8,152	13,575	92%	106%
Morrow Mountain	15,410	46,170	15,268	38,224	1%	21%
Mount Jefferson	5,591	14,390	5,549	17,512	1%	-18%
Mount Mitchell	10,729	21,601	11,112	16,867	-3%	28%
New River	6,724	15,977	6,200	19,188	8%	-17%
Pettigrew	5,663	11,308	6,864	17,229	-17%	-34%
Pilot Mountain	29,088	64,262	28,147	54,793	3%	17%
Raven Rock	10,876	22,733	11,968	21,363	-9%	6%
Singletary Lake	2,610	3,441	1,257	2,435	108%	41%
South Mountains	15,264	31,582	13,386	26,366	14%	20%
Stone Mountain	29,504	67,872	24,992	45,848	18%	48%
Weymouth Woods	4,360	11,289	2,667	7,058	63%	60%
William B. Umstead	43,534	98,749	22,855	47,118	90%	110%
SYSTEMWIDE TOTAL	747,111	1,553,143	626,500	1,339,811	19%	16%

Mission

The mission of the North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation is:

to protect North Carolina's natural diversity;

to provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities throughout North Carolina;

and

to exemplify and encourage good stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources

for all citizens and visitors of North Carolina.

SAFETY ZONE

**What you
don't know
can hurt you**

- ✓Read labels before using or storing hazardous substances.
- ✓Check material safety data sheets (MSDS) for additional safety measures for hazardous substances.
- ✓Whenever possible, keep hazardous substances in their original containers.
- ✓Properly label any new container in which it becomes necessary to store a hazardous substance.



The Steward

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